

**Wetlands Division Bi-Weekly Update
September 27, 2012**

Division Management

Budget Overview

Nonresponsive discussion of Budget

Nonresponsive talking points unrelated to Pebble/Bristol Bay

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Bristol Bay Assessment

- We received the Final Peer Review Report on 9/17/12. We provided an overview and summary of its findings/recommendations during an extended BB briefing with senior management on 9/19/12. In response to a request, we are preparing a summary of the peer review report for senior managers.
- Last week, we meet with representatives from the Alaska Conservation Foundation, BBNC, and Trout Unlimited. Monday, we met with representatives from WWF.
- On 9/20 and 9/21, reps from the BB assessment team met in Potomac Yard to discuss revisions to the mining scenario described in the BB assessment.
- On 9/24, Rep Issa, Chairman of the House Oversight and Gov Reform Committee, sent EPA an extensive Information Request regarding information related to the peer review process for the BB assessment including:
 - A list of similar watershed assessments undertaken by EPA, including the length of time it took to complete those assessments.
 - A transcript of all sessions of the peer review meeting on August 7-9, 2012, including the August 9th closed-door session as well as any other closed-door meetings between the peer review panel and EPA.
 - All documents and communications referring or relating to the peer review panel's review of the Bristol Bay watershed assessment, including communications between the peer reviewers and EPA, as well as internal EPA communications.

Nonresponsive Talking Points Unrelated to Pebble/Bristol Bay

- At Ken's request, we worked with Region 7 CWA 404 staff to draft a response from their RA to a staffer on Senator Blunt's staff about the timing of the project. OWOW transmitted the draft response to OCIR for informal review on September 18. We are not aware whether OCIR has provided any feedback.
- Army CW staff will be conducting a field visit to the site on Oct. 1-2. WD is coordinating with Region 7, Army Corps and FWS on trip logistics and details. We have provided Ken with read-ahead and preparatory materials for his use in conversations with Army and Interior senior policy managers.

Infrastructure EO

- No update since last biweekly.

Upcoming Travel Plans/Needs

Nonresponsive Talking Points Unrelated to Pebble/Bristol Bay

- Bristol Bay: Likely another set of public meetings at the time the final assessment is released (December). ORD will look to us to help support their travel.